



KARLA W. CORCORAN

INSPECTOR GENERAL

May 6, 2003

Eric Ritter
Executive Managing Editor
Inside Edition
555 West 57th Street
Radio City Station
New York, NY 10019

By telefax: 212-586-1217

Dear Mr. Ritter:

The *Inside Edition* story broadcast on May 5, 2003 alleging that I wasted \$1.2 million dollars on employee team building sessions on U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General (OIG) annual conferences is factually wrong and misleads your viewers through exaggerated reporting.

We have had conferences annually during my six-year tenure, which have included technical training, speakers from Congress and the Postal Service, as well as team building exercises and employee recognition. The team building portions at these conferences, while important, cost \$73,000 for this six-year period. Employee time for teambuilding exercises was six hours over six years, about five percent of the total time spent on these conferences. The average cost of bringing all employees together for a combined annual awards and training program is \$660 per person for all six all conferences or \$44 per day, per employee. This is hardly an unusual expense for any federal agency, semi-governmental entity, or corporation.

Further, you made the point that employees were forced to participate in these events. While attendance at these conferences was required, participation in many of the activities that you showed (e.g. employees from our Computer Assisted Assessment Techniques (CAATS) put on "cat" masks) was voluntary. They were done by various groups as a source of pride in their team and to promote their services within the OIG.

1735 N LYNN ST
ARLINGTON VA 22209-2020
(703) 248-2300
FAX: (703) 248-2291

As Inspector General, I am expected to ensure that the audits and investigations conducted by my office and the reports issued are factually correct, balanced, and reported in the proper context. Apparently, *Inside Edition* does not adhere to similar standards when reporting stories that attack people's reputation.

Additionally, we had been working with your reporter Cindy Galli and had submitted written responses to all of her questions. Curiously, we were not provided an opportunity to respond to many of the claims made in your broadcast, which I believe is irresponsible journalism.

It is clear that your reporting on this story was hardly "fair and balanced". You deliberately manipulated videotaped events to exaggerate and present teambuilding exercises out of context to sensationalize your story. I challenge you to have the courage to display and report this letter prominently in a future story.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Karla W. Corcoran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Karla W. Corcoran